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School Committee Minutes 12 22 2011

Approved by Arlington School Committee March 1, 2012

Arlington School Committee
Thursday, December 22, 2011
6:30 p.m.

Arlington High School
School Committee Room – Sixth Floor
869 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476

Present: Ms. Cindy Starks, Chair, Dr. Kirsi Allison-Ampe, Vice Chair, Mr. Judson Pierce, Secretary, Mr. Jeff Thielman, Mr. Joseph Curro, Jr., Ms. Leba Heigham, and Mr. William Hayner.

Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Mr. Robert Spiegel, Human Resource Officer, Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, and Ms. Kathleen Lockyer, Interim Director of Special Education Ms. Shioban Foley, AEA Representative, Mr. Alexis Moisand, Student Representative, and Ms. Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Dr. Wallis Raemer, Interim Assistant Superintendent, and AAA Representative

Ms. Johnson exited the meeting at 7:30p.m. and returned at 7:35p.m.

Ms. Kathleen Lockyer exited the meeting at 9:10p.m.

Ms. Shiobon Foley exited the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Ms. Starks opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Starks informed the School Committee members the passing of Ms. Tina DiNitto, Arlington Public Schools employee and Mr. Anthony Porciello, retiree School Department Carpenter.

Public Participation

Mr. David Plumb, Dallin parent. Spirit of collaboration. Identify the challenges that need to be resolved. Emphasis should be on preserving existing community networks and safe routes. Urged more sharing of information and data, consideration of alternative solutions other than moving lines.

Mr. Mark Baranoff, Brackett parent, and School Street resident said the redistricting process does not affect him but disappointed on the process.

Ms. Gami Maislin, Dallin School parent, thanked Dr. Bodie for the information and requested that all redistricting data be shared and wants more data on date of births, open enrollments, etc.

Mr. Tom Davison, Bishop parent, thanked Dr. Bodie and CFO on providing kindergarten data but said he disagrees with the data provided and suggested Arlington to rethink the program and that the School Committee should be holding forums and working groups to improve the full time kindergarten program in Arlington.

Mr. Jay Negro thanked everyone who already spoke on redistricting and suggested that the process of redistricting barriers should be reconsidered.

Ottoson Solar Panels

Mr. Ryan Katofsky presented the Ottoson Middle School's New Photovoltaic Power System. Mr. Katofsky is a member of Sustainable Arlington, part of Vision 2020, member of the Town's Energy Working Group, and a parent of a middle school and elementary age school children.

Mr. Katofsky spoke on the estimated cost savings and revenue the PV system produces and said we received matching grant money from the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust. Mr. Katofsky said the Energy Working Group is developing a plan to expand solar electricity on Town buildings.

The committee members appreciated the presentation and inquired on the life span of the Solar panels and how much our roofs could handle.

Budgetary needs for Special Education Department and at Elementary Schools for FY '13.

Deb D'Amico Hardy Principal, Mark McAneny, Bishop Principal, Sheri Donovan, Thompson and Stratton Principal, Tara Rossi, Dallin Principal, Karen Hartley, Peirce Principal, and Stephanie Zerchykov, Brackett Principal collaborated on the Elementary School Improvement Plan for FY 2013 and shared the vision that "All students will achieve at their full social, emotional, creative and academic potential, and will be prepared for higher level academics, workforce success, active citizenship, and life-long learning." They all agree that the programs needed for elementary should be school-based Instructional Technology Support, full time Social Worker, fully-funded Elementary Library Program, Math Intervention Program K-5 and reeducation in class sizes. The other recommendation was to hire a full time Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction.

After the presentation, Dr. Bodie agreed that the School Committee should consider adding a full time Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction back into the budget, Mr. Thielman said if the Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer agree with the recommendation then they should move forward and post this position in January and to assume this position into the FY 13 Budget.

Mr. Hayner moved to direct the Superintendent to start the search in January 2012 for a full time Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, seconded by Ms. Heigham.
Voted: 7-0

Ms. Kathleen Lockyer presented the needs for 2012-2013 school year which would include Social Workers in the Elementary Schools, hiring of additional teachers at the middle school for 7th grade co taught program, a speech therapist at the preschool and at the Elementary, a District Wide Team chair would be needed as well as Occupational therapy at the middle school. Kathleen Lockyer also said once the Thompson School is opened in 2013-2014 a Social Worker would also need to be hired for this school. In 2013 we would need to add teachers for the 8th grade co-taught program at the middle school. The elementary schools would need teachers for the SLCA 3-5 expansion program too.

Dr. Bodie informed the School Committee of Dr. Raemer's Technology Budget Requests for FY 13 and the total amount of budget needed for this would be about \$412,500. The document cameras and projectors in every classroom was discussed and adding the Technology as a separate Budget Line Item due to the fact that Capital Funds pay for technology but does not pay for maintenance and support.

Kindergarten cost analysis & Capital improvement report

Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer had handed out the Kindergarten Fees and Education Expenditures dated November 28, 2011 for our last meeting, but said her methodology states that educating a kindergarten student for a half day cost is \$ 6,250.84. Arlington currently charges the maximum under the terms of the grant, which is \$4,000 and parents with financial need are encouraged to fill out paper work to be discounted according to a sliding scale set by the DESE. Ms. Johnson said about 49 families have not paid, which is about \$120,000 outstanding to the Arlington Public Schools.

Mr. Hayner said he had spoke with Town Counsel, Juliana Rice, on how to collect the fees from Arlington families and she said she would be willing to draft language to amend the Town Bylaws and hereby are amended by inserting in Title I (General Government") the following article: Article 21 to Municipal Charges Liens.

Mr. Hayner moved to direct the chair to contact Town Counsel to draft Warrant Article for purpose of

Modification to Municipal Charges Liens, seconded by Mr. Curro.

Voted: 7-0

The Budget Subcommittee said they would move forward and continue the discussion around the kindergarten fees and expenditures of the program.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Bodie thanked all the schools on the holiday giving each school were involved in over the past few weeks. Dr. Bodie placed the Thompson Demolition CD showing the school being torn down this past week and thanked Brian Murray, Tree Arborist, who saved a tree from the Thompson School. Dr. Bodie spoke on the need to redistrict due to the imbalance of elementary classroom sizes and to the growing Arlington community. Ms. Nicholson, Director of Nursing for Arlington Public Schools, informed Dr. Bodie that nine confirmed concussions have been reported from the fall sports teams.

Subcommittee & Liaison Reports

Policies & Procedures

Mr. Curro provided the proposed policy changes to the following policies.

First Readings:

BBAA School Committee Member Authority

BDEA School Committee Standing Subcommittees

BDEB School Committee Liaisons to Individual Schools

BDF Advisory Committees to the School Committee

B DFA School Councils

BDFB Advisory Committee on High School Athletics

JJIB Interscholastic Athletics

The policies changes include clarifying policy on information requests and circulation of draft motions, providing charters for each subcommittee, formally consolidating Accountability and Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment subcommittees as well as a new Facilities and Property subcommittee. Other policy changes describe duties of school liaisons, and clarifies Community Relations subcommittee roles in recommending members of subcommittees, applying procedures and providing guidance concerning Open meeting Law and other relevant documents. The School Committee would like to provide training from MASC to all School Councils and would like to create a standing advisory committee on high school athletics.

Mr. Thielman moved the 10 o'clock rule to 10:30 p.m., seconded by Mr. Hayner.

Voted: 7-0

Warrant Article on Athletic Equipment

Mr. Pierce would like to defer all Warrant Articles to the full School Committee for discussion prior to Town Meeting.

Mr. Pierce moved to direct the Superintendent to have her Personnel Manager and the Town Personnel Manager draft a Memorandum of Understanding on how they can share information from the School and Town Human Resource Departments and how they can work together, seconded by Mr. Curro.

Voted: 7-0

Budget

Dr. Kirsy Allison-Ampe said a Budget Subcommittee would be posted soon.

Community Relations

Ms. Leba Heigham moved to reappoint Marlissa Shea Briggett to the Human Rights Commission for a three-year term, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Voted: 7-0

Ms. Heigham also noted that one additional name was brought forward to be appointed and it was said that the Application Process to be considered to the Human Rights Commission has been posted to the Arlington Public Schools website and recommends all those interested to forward their information along to the School Committee Executive Secretary by January 6, 2012.

Mr. Hayner moved to request the Superintendent to provide administrative contracts that are ending on June 30, 2012 those administrative contracts that have expired and have been rolled over and the current Assistant Superintendent's and Special Education Director contract, seconded by Mr. Curro.

Voted: 7-0

Consent Agenda

All items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the committee so request, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence:

Approval of Warrant: 12077 dated 12/8/2011 Total Warrant Amount \$428,308.88

Receipt of school improvement plans for all schools K-12

Approval of acceptance of AEF donation to APS for \$15,000 Grant for AHS Mandarin Teacher for 2012-2013

Mr. Curro moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0

Secretary's Report

Mr. Pierce reported on : Secretary's Report 12/22/11 (correspondence from 11/18/11-12/22/11)

Email from concerned parent concerning athletic fees.

Several emails concerning confidentiality and the re-districting draft map.

Email from concerned parent and from SEPAC president concerning school councils' meeting minutes.

Email from Dr. Bodie apologizing for the release of the student information on the draft-redistricting map.

Email from Bob Sprague apologizing for publishing draft re-districting map.

Email from Ms. Fitzgerald with Arlington School Committee Subcommittee Members List Updated.

Email from Dr. Bodie regarding School Council Minutes and FERPA/Disclosure.

Email containing our new policy on head injuries.

Email with agenda for the BRTF meeting on 11.21.11.

Email with link to November Superintendent's Newsletter.

Email with dates of next Superintendent's Diversity Advisory Committee meetings.

Email with AHRC resolution.

Email with the sad news of the passing of~Donna Lynch, wife of former Dallin Principal Bob Lynch, on November 25th.~ As well as the sad news of the passing Tina DiNitto.~ Tina had worked in Food Services at the Ottoson.

AHS Newsletter dated November 28, 2011.

Email informing us of the Superior Court affirming~the second~arbitrator's~decision in the Coughlin matter.~

Email regarding public records access.

Email with notice/agenda of budget subcommittee meeting on 12/6/11.

Email regarding religious prayer club at AHS.

Email with agenda for SEPAC meeting on 12/6/11.

Emails with BOS Agenda on 12/5/11 and 12/19/11.

Email to John Griffin with school committee members contact information and terms.

ASC posting and agenda for 12/8/11 and tonight 12/22/11.

Email with policies scheduled for first read tonight: BBAA School Committee Member Authority, BDEA School Committee Standing Subcommittees, BDEB School Committee Liaisons to Individual Schools, BDF Advisory Committees to the School Committee, BDFA School Councils.

Email from Lori Villani concerning restraint training.

Email with job description for Senior Clerk, Special Education Department.~

Email forward from Selectwoman Diane Mahon concerning Additional Traffic Supervisor.

Email forward from Selectwoman Diane Mahon concerning Follow-up from questions at last Budget & Revenue Task Force meeting.

Email with warrant article.

Email with news of Director of Special Education Screening Committee.

Emails with news about an incident at AHS on December 8, 2011 and on December 12, 2011.

Email with Community Relations posting for 12/13/11.

Email from Regina Caines of the Superintendent's Diversity Advisory Committee regarding Highlights of Recruiting Minority Teachers Report.

Email from Dr. Bodie concerning football helmets.

Several emails regarding redistricting and busing in Arlington.

Email with posting of the next ASC AEA Negotiations Committee Unit A Meeting on 1/31/12.

Email notifying us of demolition starting at the Thompson this past Monday.

Email inviting us to the Stratton winter concert this past Tuesday.

AHS Principal's Office Newsletter dated 12/15/11.

Fall 2011 News from ACMI.

Forward from Mr. Curro regarding Board Meeting Materials and PowerPoint.

Brackett School Newsletter dated 12/12/11.

MLK Observance Notice that the event in honor of Dr. King will be held on the holiday in his name Monday 1/16/12.

MASC Policy News dated 12/9/11.

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Executive Session

Mr. Curro moved to enter into Executive Session at 10:14 p.m. to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union and/or nonunion personnel or contract negotiations with union and/or nonunion in which if held in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect and to conduct strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, in which if held in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect, collective bargaining may also be conducted and to comply with or act under the authority of the provisions of any general or special law requirements and to exit only for the purpose of adjournment, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Roll Call: unanimous

Adjourn

Ms. Heigham moved to exit out of Executive Session and to adjourn at 10:24 p.m., seconded by Mr. Curro.

Roll Call: unanimous

Respectfully Submitted by

Karen Fitzgerald

Administrative Assistant

Arlington School Committee/jp